

Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Listening Session

Minutes



Thursday, March 9th, 2023 | 7:00pm-8:30pm
United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley
329 N. Cameron St. Winchester, VA 22601

VLAB members attendance:

Director of Board Administration, Gloria Senecal, Chair, Lyons Sanchezconcha, Secretary, Eduardo Zelaya, Juan Vega, Diana Patterson, Jo-Ann Chase, Sergio Rimola, Astrid Gamez, Cecilia Williams, Rodrigo Soto, Juan Espinoza

I. WELCOME - Chair: Introductions and VLAB overview, report highlights

- A. Thank you: United Way (open for remarks)
- B. Board member intros

Community members questions/Concerns and comments

Health and Education

1. **Janet**, A Community member from Winchester is suggesting to the board to spread the word and bring awareness about how important it is to investigate the quality of the food public county schools are providing to kids. She mentioned that the high use of corn oil is damaging our families in Virginia.

Education, Budgeting and Languages Access

2. **Xochilt Martinez**, founder of "[Cambiano Vidas](#)" (Facebook Page owner)- moved to Winchester from NY. She is a business owner who focuses on new commerce. Her company focused on providing the ITN number for families that do not have status in the USA. She also is uplifting that families are facing challenges such as language - After experiencing several challenges that they see families go through, they are recommending the VLAB to add in the recommendation for the Governor Youngkin and his executive cabinet in this year's report to provide and allocate more funds to state agencies such as DMV so that they can be trained properly to best serve communities that speak Spanish.

Overall Notes: Lack of training to DMV staff. Individuals try to apply for the driver privilege card but the DMV staff is not aware of it, so the applicant gets denied service. DMV staff need to be made aware of driver privilege card existence, process, and requirements.

Housing affordability for the ALICE population, who makes too much for government assistance, but not enough to afford the cost of living. Real estate taxes are increasing from increased property assessments, which are based on demand. At the same time, landlords are increasing the rent a great deal, which makes it impossible for many to afford, especially with low inventory.

II. CLOSE - Chair: Remind of VLAB website/email/Facebook, and encourage applicants